C. 38. a. 41 (2)

# A LETTER WRITTEN BY G. L. TO M.R AND. KINGH. AND M.R THO. MED.

MVCH HONOVRED SIRS.

I cannot sufficiently expresse how hartily I doe reioyce to vnderstand, that neither of you haue concurred by vote, or consent to the publishing of M.r Thomas Blacloe his printed Pamphlett. For vndoubtedly all good, vertuous, and Religious Catholiques will iudge those that ingaged in soe foule a busines, to haue contracted a stayne or blemish which to wipe awaye lies not now with in their reach. For abstracting

ſtracting from the reproches of Sycophant, Madman, hiſſinge ſerpent, &c. beſeeming Luthers Satyres, the doctrine conteyned in the ſaid Pamphlett is ſcandalous, and perniciouſe: inſoemuch, that it will neceſſarily reflecte vpon thoſe, who haue countenanced it with their votes, and render their proceeding as vnworthie as the ſaid doctrine is odious and worthie to be abhor'd: In regard that it teacheth.

1.° Againſt the Popes infallibilitie in ſoe ſpightfull a manner, as not any heretique writer hath vſed expreſſions of a more Satyricall bitternes againſt it: *viz. that it is not defenſible but by force of command and power, ſcandalizeth Catholiques, and auerteth thoſe who otherwiſe were neere conuerſion.* And to theſe expreſſions may be added an other out of the ſaid M.r Blacloes reprochfull magazine, which is, *that to maintayne the Popes Infallibility, is as great a ſinne, as is the deflouring of a Sacred Virgin vpon an altar.*

Now

Now I doe appeale to you, whether this doctrine deliuered by M.r Blacloe in in the ſaid Pamphlett, auerring *that to defend the Popes Infallibilitie*, (which is the Aſſertion mainteyned in all tymes by the whole Current of Catholique Doctors) *is ſcandalous, deſtructiue of ſoules, and as great a ſinne as is the deflouring of Sacred Virgins vpon an altar.* whether I ſay this vnworthy doctrine will not neceſſarly render thoſe vnworthy, who haue voted for the publishing of it. how euer I doe firmely beleeue, that the diuine prouidence hath permitted this foule proceeding far vnbeeſeeming Apoſtolicall Miſſioners, to the end that our brethren diſperſt in diuerſe Prouinces, may not hereafter be abuſed by the now London Conſult that is ſett at the helme of Affaires.

2.o *Teacheth, that to auerre the inlargment of faithfull ſoules out of Purgatory before the day of iudgment through the aſſiſtance of Suffrages &c. is contrary to piety,*

*chargeth god with irrationall Iuſtice, and expoſeth heauen to auction, that who can giue moſt ſhall ſooneſt come thether.* wherefore I doe appeale to you, whether this doctrine damning a Catholique veritie defined by Pope Eugenius the 4. in the Councell of Florence, as allſo by Pope Benedict the 12. eſtabliſh'd by the cõſtant practiſe of the vniuerſall Church, and mainteyn'd by all Catholique writers will not infallibly blemiſhe the reputation of thoſe, who haue voted in Countenance of it.

3.° *Teacheth viſions, and apparitions of ſoules relating to Purgatory to be Old wifes tales.* Where againe I doe appeale to you, whether mocking at Apparitions of that nature, related by S. Auguſtine, S. Gregory, S. Bede, and others, will not preiudice the honour of thoſe, who conſented to the ſcandalous calling of them old wifes tales.

This is all: onely I dare ſay that not any heretique writer hath ſhewne himſelfe

ſoe

ſoe pernicious in impugning the Popes Infallibility, as M.r Blacloe: nor any Catholique writer hath manifeſted himſelf ſoe violent an enemy to the vniuerſall practiſe of Gods Church as M.r Blacloe: nor ſoe rigid to the ſoules in Purgatory, as M.r Blacloe: nor ſoe ciuill to diuells and damned in hell, as M.r Blacloe: who aſcribes vnto them, noe other punishment then what their owne pure volitions shall inflicte. And in ſuch a manner, that he neither excludes delight in their paines, nor a poſsibility of being happy, if they will them ſelues: as it apears by my anſwer to his Letter: where is obſeruable flexibility in Angells. From which profane Nouelties, ſweete IESVS deliuer vs, and giue vs grace to *Sapere ad ſobrietatem*, whith shal be the cōnſtant praier of

*Much honoured Sirs*

Your moſt aſſured friend and moſt humble ſervant

G. L.